Time, a Present from God

John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2).

In Ecclesiastes 3, we are reminded that everything in life operates within the confines of God's time. From birth to death, planting to harvesting, the passage teaches us that ***all of time is in God's hands****. We quickly forget the time between planting and harvesting. The time when the seed grows, develops into what the seed says it is supposed to be. This is the time that most of the world seldom thinks about. The farmer does. Because the farmer has to wait. The farmer has to consider what the forecast looks like. The farmer realizes all things operate on and in God's time.*

When we plant the seed we expect it to grow. We expect to see some kind of result. Everything that grows does so within the appropriate parameters set by God. Spring comes and is followed by summer. Summer comes and is followed by winter and the cycle repeats itself. Each change of the seasons is a silent activity of God. So is the way God works in our lives. The work of God in each life goes unseen. It too is silent. It seems like nothing is happening. Stay away from a nephew or niece for three months and see how fast they grow. God doesn't announce His work, but we can see God working. If we cannot see God's movement it does not mean God is not moving. God is moving in relationships; He's moving in the healing of wounds. He is moving to fulfill the promises He has made to the world. God works in the not-so-visible places of our lives. God works in our hearts, spirits, and world in His own way. God's timing can never be questioned.

God is always on time and His timing is perfection. Even when we want something to come sooner or later. God's time is seldom our time. Our time is not always the best of times.

Mark 4:26-27 tells us that the kingdom of God looks like this ***"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how."*** *God is always working and doing; moving and acting; healing and correcting; testing and preparing us to take tests. He is preparing us for the next phase of our lives.*

The kingdom of God only comes with time. Growth, change, and healing, only come over time. Waiting for time to pass is something we are not good at. Even though we use the expression " he or she has the patience of Job," Job was not that patient. We want things right now. We want change now. Why are we always in such a hurry? In our desire to control time, we often struggle with being fully present, longing for the future, or dwelling on the past. What is it about the present that we dislike so much and so often we are always in search of something new and different to fill it with?

Time is a gift from God. The present is indeed a "present." How often do we flee from the present? How often do we pass up on the opportunity to open this gift of time? The only present you will ever have in that particular space of our existence. How often do we daydream looking for a better day, better people, and times? Looking into the future or retreating into the past escaping from the gift of the present moment. One of the most valuable lessons I have learned is that time does not change. Time is what time is. Eternity does not change. It cannot be harnessed or corralled. You cannot catch time; you cannot stop time. The only thing you can do with time is live and use it the way God intended.

God intended time to be used to His glory. What does that mean? It means that we do not waste it. It means that we do not squander it. As we get older time has a way of moving quickly. That is because as we get older time becomes more valuable. If we are honest with ourselves time has always been valuable. Time has always been the most precious commodity. Time has always been irreplaceable.

Time is the stuff that cannot be seen. It cannot be measured. We use clocks to measure time. That is a silly attempt to control the uncontrollable. Time is precious and God has given us all the ability to use it wisely. What time is it in your life? What time do you think it is?

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It is never too late to give some time to God.